

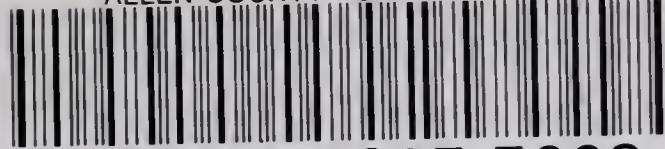


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AN HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL  
STUDY  
THE DESCENDANTS OF

THOMAS E. BERRY

1819 - 1866

and +

THE DESCENDANTS OF  
IRA WARD BERRY

1855 - 1923

by

LAWRENCE W. BERRY

The Dragness Printing Company  
Kent, Washington



This genealogical study is based upon the bibliography found at the end of this volume. The method of presentation is both historical and biographical. Whenever dates and the sequence of events could be verified from a printed source, they have been included. Hear-say, as such, has intentionally been omitted. This approach has definitely limited the scope of the subject matter treated to those facts which could be substantiated by original sources.

What the author has brought together may well be compared to the honey comb and honey in a bee's hive. As the wax comb is completed and the bees start to fill in the honey, so this framework of historical and biographical events may serve as the hive, as it were, for later writers to fill in more nectar.

In another generation from now, many of the references and authors mentioned here will have been forgotten. The story of the beginnings of Washington Territory (with its inescapable hardships, and the people who started it) needs to be saved from oblivion. If it had not been for the enterprising groundwork of the generation of the pioneers, we in the Pacific Northwest would not have had the flow of population which built here a civilization in the matrix of a wilderness.

October 20, 1960  
Kent, Washington

LAWRENCE W. BERRY



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## FRENCH ORIGIN OF THE NAME

There is a certain romance associated with the origin of family names. The surname Berry is no exception to this interesting discovery. During feudal times the common people called themselves by the name of the place where they lived. This may have been due partly for ease of identification when traveling, and it may have stemmed from "chattel ownership" by some duke or prince.

In south central France there is a Province named Berry. At one time there was a Ducal House of Beri, with a long succession of dukes and princes. As the area coming under the domain of a prince extended, the geographical subdivisions needed to be properly named. For example, Lounsberry would identify the place of residence of the Loun family.

The name Berry has many variant spellings. One variant of Beri is Berg, another is Burg, and still another is Borough. It is easy to see that each of these words represent either a settlement, an enclosure, or a ward in some city.

It is noted that to be consistent, the Berry surname should have retained its compound nature so that the suffix would be attached to the geographical locality where our ancestors originated.

Insofar as nationality determines origin, the Berrys were all originally French. Later came intermarriage with the English, Welsh and Hessian-Dutch strains. There is no Irish blood in the immediate family.

Jean, Duke of Berry, lived in Bourges, France, from 1340 to 1416 A.D. Having a fine sense of artistic appreciation, he ordered prepared for himself, a book in which appears a picture of the patron and the Berry coat of arms. This book is entitled "The Belles Heures", or "Book of Hours", and is a fine reproduction of printing.

On April 29, 1529, "under the fostering care of Marguerite d'Angoulene, mistress of the duchy of Berry," John Calvin was materially assisted before he fled

France and went to live in Geneva, Switzerland. In France, Calvin was a professor sympathetic to the Reformation. John Calvin's writings have directly influenced the balance of powers set up in the form of government of our own United States of America.

Attention is now shifted to the time of the Huguenots, both before and during the reign of Henry of Navarre. Unfortunately, French Protestantism was a mixture of sincere religious reform and less sincere political rivalry. The Guise nobility were opposed by the powerful Medicis. In the beginning, Henry of Navarre aligned himself with the Medicis, causing Protestantism to be popular for political reasons. When, however, Henry of Navarre turned Roman Catholic to become King, the Huguenots had their political ground cut out from under them. Tens of thousands of them fled to Germany, Holland, and England and eventually to the American colonies.

## *Section One: The Geneology of*

### **THOMAS F. BERRY**

#### **The Four Corner-stones of This Study**

The four corner-stones depended upon for this biographical study are the autobiographical sketches written by Lewis P. Berry, George T. Berry, Lucy R. her parents. By developing the leads from these four sources, the additional data was discovered.

Through extensive trips to Olympia and discussions with a half dozen descendants of the pioneer families in Thurston and Lewis Counties, many friendly Berry and the dictated letter of Louisa J. Pierce about doors were opened and the heart-warming hospitality of the people here in the Pacific Northwest was re-discovered.

The historian, Harvey Kimball Hines, in "ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON," Thomas F. Berry was born in Guernsey County, over the signature of Lewis P. Berry, states that Ohio, September 10, 1819. Lewis Berry further states that his mother, Martha (Timberlake) Berry, was born at Newport, Kentucky, on September 7, 1820.

The next official document bearing on these two people is the application for Donation Claim Certificate No. 178, filled out and signed by Thomas F. Berry, at Olympia, on August 5, 1854. In this application, Mr. Berry states that he "was legally married to her (Martha J. Berry) on the 12th of March, 1840, in the State of Indiana."

The Fourth U. S. Census for 1820, and the Fifth U.S. Census for 1830, were studied in an effort to fill in the possible places of residence in the intervening years. The findings are not conclusive, due to the fact that there were no standard printed forms for the use of the census takers and the penmanship and

spelling cannot always be deciphered.

Four families of Berrys are listed in Guernsey County, Ohio, for the 1820 Census. Following is a listing for the probable correct Thomas Berry, based on the ages and number of children:

White male children under ten.....	1
White male, ten to sixteen.....	2
Males 20 to 45, upward including heads of families.....	1
White females under ten.....	3
Females, 20 to 45 upward including heads of families.....	1
Number engaged in agriculture.....	1

The above was listed under "Tho. Berrey (last name misspelled) in Wellington Township, list 188A, Guernsey County, Ohio, for 1820."

### **Benjamin Mann Fought in Revolutionary War**

When the quest of the Berrys for possible membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution was begun, Mrs. Charles E. Berry of Spokane, Washington, corresponded with members of the Mann family.

Martha J. Timberlake's mother was Frances Mann. She was one of the youngest of twenty-three children. Frances Mann's family was originally from Virginia, but had moved to Kentucky before she was born. Her father's name was Benjamin Mann.

From Mrs. Charles Berry's diligent efforts came the discovery of an historical document making it possible for those who complied with the necessary obligations to qualify for membership in the D.A.R.

On March 12, 1913, Congressman Prouty, representing the Seventh Congressional District of Iowa, sent the following pertinent information to Mrs. S. Baylor Keenan, Des Moines, Iowa:

"Benjamin Mann was born in Wales on the.....  
day of....., 1750, and died near Alexandria,  
Kentucky, on the.....day of....., 1827,  
and served in the War of the Revolution.

"He enlisted May 1, 1781, as private under Captain Robert Woodson and Colonels Febiger and Gaskins. Enlisted in Louisa County, Virginia, and served 18 months. Engaged in the Battle of Yorktown.

"References: History of Sons of the Revolution, Pendleton County, Kentucky, 'Pensioners under Act of March 18, 1818, page 212.' The Mann Memorial under the title of 'The Virginia Manns.' Application for pension filed in Pension Bureau."

### Philip Timberlake Appointed Guardian, 1838

Martha J. Berry's father was Philip Timberlake. The name of Timberlake was found to be well known in Campbell County, Kentucky.

A document entitled "Commonwealth of Kentucky, Campbell Circuit Court, April term, 1838," names Philip Timberlake guardian for his grandson. The gist of the court order is that David Northcut, infant and sole heir of deceased Jeremiah Northcut, was authorized to sell eighteen and one-half acres of land for \$175.50, and that said Philip Timberlake should receive and collect the same as guardian for the benefit and use of David Northcut. The court document was signed by John N. Taliafeno, Clerk.

By 1830, there were no Thomas Berrys listed as living in Guernsey County, Ohio, indicating that their place of residence was likely further down the Ohio River.

In the "Official Roster of Soldiers of the American Revolution," there is mentioned a Thomas Berry from Butler County, Ohio. He died in 1832, at the age of 69. There is a reasonable probability that this Thomas Berry was a near relative of Thomas F. Berry of Guernsey County, Ohio.

Louisa J. Pierce, daughter of Thomas F. Berry, wrote a brief summary of her parents in a letter dated Feb. 12, 1924. In this letter, Mrs. Pierce stated, "My father Thomas F. Berry's . . . mother's name was Mary Brown. I know very little about his father, . . . do not know his first name."

Again referring to the Fourth U.S. Census, 1820, there were five families of Browns all living in Jefferson County, Ohio, just a few miles northeast of Guernsey County, and approximately 15 miles northwest of Wheeling, West Virginia. Three of these families lived in Mount Pleasant Township and two of them lived in Wayne Township. Based on the ages and number of children, it is assumed that either Nicodemus Brown, or Arthur Brown, was of the family related to Mary Brown, mother of Thomas F. Berry.

## The Thomas F. Berrys Lived in Four Counties in Indiana

There is evidence that the Thomas F. Berry family lived in at least four counties in the State of Indiana. These were: Clark, Crawford, Morgan and Shelby.

The ancestral home in Clark County was on the bank of the Ohio River, not too far from Bethlehem, Indiana, at a spot known in the early days as "Berry's Landing." (Martha Jane Berry relates that captains of river boats were known to sing out in the night over a megaphone, "Yo Ho, Berry," and when Grandfather Berry replied to this call, he would be asked for needed information for directions, or where to leave supplies at the various river landings.)

Two and possibly three of the Berry children were born down river in Crawford County. Louis Philip Berry stated that he was born at Leavonworth, and George T. Berry, in a brief sketch of his life, states, "(he) was born near the city of Indianapolis, on July 17, 1844."

The struggle for survival was hard, and there was never more than just enough food for a bare subsistence. With the restless hope that the soil would be more fertile and living conditions easier, the family moved north to Morgan County.

The farm in Morgan County was approximately 33 miles southwest of the capitol of Indiana, while the farm in Shelby County, where the family next lived,

was between 15 and 20 miles southeast of Indianapolis. An I.O.U., dated Nov. 2, 1848, made out to Thomas Berry, gives the Post Office as Pleasant View, Indiana. This place and date offers a definite time for his being in Shelby County.

Finally comes the first evidence of a settled community life. The entire family joined the Methodist Church in Shelbyville, and there were box suppers and school house debates. (One of the subjects up for debate was: "Resolved, that there is more pleasure in the pursuit of romance than in its attainment.")

The two main reasons for the decision to cross the plains to the Pacific Northwest were economic and religious. Both of these motives entered into the family's prolonged discussions. Always there was the hope for betterment. Seven children had been born, of whom one had died. A complaint known as Ague was enervating some members of the family. (This could more properly be interpreted as malaria, since the father felt that his children would be better off away from the unhealthy soils and marshes.)

As an added incentive, copies of *The Christian Advocate* were telling of the need for settlers in the Oregon Territory. The thrilling story of Dr. Marcus Whitman taking wagons all the way to Fort Boise, was repeated from many pulpits. The element of adventure was irresistible and possibly Thomas F. Berry thought in his heart, ". . . I want to live where Marcus Whitman lives . . . I will go where he is."

Two wagons with six children and extra oxen for relief, driven by T. F. Berry and a Mr. Dilts, left Shelbyville, Indiana, in April, 1853, and reached Tumwater on Puget Sound, on September 20th of that year.

## Finding a Record of the Journey

(Perhaps the high point in the preparation of this genealogy was the discovery of the name of T. F. Berry in "The Journal of Patterson F. Luark." Until this discovery was made, it was not known whether

or not a written record existed of the trip across the plains made by T. F. Berry and his family. All of the quotes taken from this journal are copied from Herndon Smith's book, "Centralia — The First Fifty Years," published by the Daily Chronicle and F. H. Cole Printing Company, Centralia, Washington.

Much indebtedness is owed to Herndon Smith, the former teacher in the high school at Centralia, Washington, for enlightenment on the statistics of the number of persons traveling over the Oregon Trail, during the season of 1853. Miss Herndon quotes, for instance, from Volume One of the "Luark Journal," dated Thursday, May 19th: "There had already passed on the southern side of the Plat this season (besides what had passed on the north side) and before us, 1360 wagons, 450 head of cattle, 1754 horses, 742 families, 3,344 men, 905 women, and 1207 children." This was at Fort Kearney. At North Platte, on June 13, 1853, was written, "Here I learned that 905 wagons had already crossed this season.")

Granting that the larger proportion of these wagons turned southwest at Fort Bridger, it would seem that there was almost a steady caravan of wagons and teams on the Oregon Trail throughout the summer of '53.

According to the journal of Patterson F. Luark, he met T. F. Berry three miles from Buck Creek on the west side of the Snake River in Oregon Territory.

Following are excerpts from Patterson Luark's journal:

"Tuesday, August 8—Got in company of T. F. Berry and Mr. Dilts today.

"Thursday, August 11—Eighteen miles today brought us four miles into the Grande Ronde Valley. This is a beautiful valley, partly surrounded by mountains covered with yellow and other pine and fir, and etc.

"Saturday, August 13—Ten miles today in the mountains and camped on a ridge guarding stock in the valley to the left. There is water and lots of wolves.

“Monday, August 15—Eight miles again and we emerged again into the open country (Emigrant Hill). Eight miles more and camped on the Umitillon River, near where the road to Walla Walla leads off.

“Tuesday, August 18—Twenty miles today. Left the River (Umatilla) at the Indian Agency and passed fifteen miles of sandy road to Butler Creek. Good camp. About sixty wagons on creek tonight.

“Monday, August 29—Passed the famous Barlows Gate and commenced to ascend the mountains. Here I came very near losing my wagons and mules and myself over a precipice.

“Saturday, September 3—Traveled one and one-half miles to foot of Black Bone, in climbing of which we left another ox. Working the wheel mules, hitching on two yoke of oxen at hills; and at steep ones, doubling teams. Twelve (miles) thence to brow of Soap hill, a dangerous place when wet. Took our wagons down by hand. Hundreds of logs lay around towards the foot of this hill, that have been hitched behind wheels of wagons descending. This hill was so slick that the teams could not walk down it in the track.

“Wednesday, September 7 — Two miles east of Portland. Here we fed wild hay at 75c per hundred until the 12th (Sept.). Glad to rest a little.”

“Friday, September 9 — Today Berry and Dilts went to Portland with William Cock, Esq., to make arrangement for going to Monticello in a barge of Henry Windsor's. I went to Oregon City on business.

“Monday, September 12—I sold my ox wagon for 89 dollars. The freight and storage on the same was 30 dollars. After putting our things aboard, the families in care of Dilts, I and Berry returned to stock.

“Tuesday, September 13—Took our stock out of pasture at Sangs. Cost me 2 dollars. Drove to Switzlers, Berry going ahead to make contact for ferriage.

“Friday, September 16 — Travelled twenty miles, swimming stock over Vancouver slough, and stayed in a house on the banks of the Lewis River, leaving stock on opposite side.

“Monday, September 19 — In the afternoon we

swam and ferried the cows, and camped opposite Monticello (Longview) and went over and stayed with our families all night.

“Tuesday, September 20—Started up the Cowlitz River and camped nearly opposite the boat with our families in (it).

“Thursday, September 22—Drove out to Cowlitz Prairie and united our families.

“Saturday, September 24—About nine o’clock our goods landed and I found myself in debt for the passage (shipment costs) \$65.

Note: See Reference 33 in Bibliography.

The constant scarcity of money during the trip made it necessary to establish credit. When T. F. Berry ran out of money near the city of Portland, he took his Masonic Apron, which he carried in a metal tube, and looked up certain Brother Masons in that city. From them he received a loan of two hundred dollars. T. F. Berry remained in good standing with the Masons, for there is in extant, paid-up receipts of his membership in the Olympia Lodge of A. F. and A. M.

According to the Luark Journal, that party consisted of the father, Patterson F. Luark, a brother Michael F., a teenage son Marcellus and three younger children. Since this party started on the Oregon Trail from St. Joe, Missouri, as did that of Thomas F. Berry, attention should be called to their approximate time of starting and the huge number of wagons counted on the way west.

The Luarks were in St. Joe on April 25, 1853. From that city, they traveled up the left bank of the Missouri River approximately 26 miles, to a crossing called “Wolf River.” Here reference is made by Mr. Luark to his use of “Walter’s Guide,” which emigrants in that day used to refer them to conditions on the road and various watering and feeding stops.

The Oregon Trail was essentially a wagon route paralleling a series of rivers and streams. When the relationship of these various rivers is studied on a topographical map, it will become apparent how de-

pendent the emigrants were on the sources of water supply which the following rivers afforded: the Missouri, Big Blue, Platte, Sweetwater, Big Sandy, Green, Bear, Snake, Boise, Grande Ronde, Umatilla, Columbia, Cowlitz and Des Chutes. These fourteen rivers designate the route of the Oregon Trail.

## The Donation Claim

The granting of land to settlers was based upon an act of Congress, approved September 27, 1850, entitled: "An act to create the office of Surveyor General of the Public Lands in Oregon, and to make donations to settlers of the said public lands."

Study of the records of the former General Land Office, now in the National Archives, reveals that Washington Donation Certificate 178, was issued to Thomas F. Berry "... all in Township 18 north, range 2 west." Thomas F. Berry moved onto his claim on May 1, 1854, and remained until 1864.

February 3, 1861 at Olympia  
Sir the Register and Receiver in your office are  
requested to divide our donation Land Claim  
as follows give the north half to Martha J. Berry  
and the south half to Thomas F. Berry  
Thomas F. Berry  
Martha J. Berry  
mark

### COPY OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENT REQUESTING DONATION CLAIM

In order to properly qualify for two quarter sections of land, he addressed a letter to the Registrar of the Land Office, Olympia, W.T., under the date of February 3, 1861, making the following request: "Sirs, . . . you are requested to divide our donation land claim as follows: give the north half to Martha J. Berry and the south half to Thomas F. Berry. (Signed) Thomas F. Berry." Then an interesting detail is noted in the next signature. Thomas Berry signed his wife's name, "Martha J. Berry," with an "X" under the words, "Her mark." (This was the first time the author knew that Grandmother Berry

could not sign her own name, however, she is remembered to have possessed an ability that far outshone her inability to write, namely, to quote from the Bible. Louisa Jane Pierce often repeated words which her mother had taught her: "To God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect." (Hebrews 12:23.)

Mima Prairie in Thurston County did not have good soil. It was characteristic of these clearings to be practically devoid of trees and generally rippled in a series of hummocks. Even the grass dried out earlier on these prairies than in the nearby woods.

George Waugh, who later settled north of Centralia, has offered a feasible explanation for the early settlers choosing to settle on the poorer prairie land instead of clearing away the forests where the richer soil lay. Mr. Waugh said, "The settlers chose this open land so that they might (more quickly) build log cabins, plow their land and pasture their cattle with the least amount of effort."

Washington's great historian, Edmond Meany, points out that there were so many up and downs in the economy of Washington Territory that business crises were like waves beating upon the seashore. He wrote, "The year 1855, saw the Territory of Washington enshrouded in gloom . . . food was growing scarce, ordinary business was out of the question; starvation, flight or the tomahawk seemed the only alternatives."

### Indian Hostilities

For ten months, beginning during the fall of 1855 and lasting through the summer of 1856, most of the settlers left their farm homes and moved into the townspeople's homes. The family who befriended the Berrys was that of Mr. Ira Ward of Tumwater. This family literally stretched their small home to take in the eight extra people. Moreover, Mrs. Jane Ward presided as mid-wife during the birth of Ira Ward Berry on October 20, 1855. It was out of gratitude that the baby was named Ira Ward, in honor of his generous "protector."

By trade Mr. Ward was a tanner. It is probable that he made the harness for many of the settlers' teams of horses and oxen. Mr. Ward is better remembered, however, for building the blockhouse at Tumwater, located near the old Ward mill, on the site of the present city hall.

There were numerous Indian scares. (Mrs. Jane Ward later recalled taking a lantern whenever there was some fresh alarm that Indians were near and climbing up the path to the safety of the blockhouse.) Basically, the settlers' worries and fears stemmed from the overwhelming superiority of number. There were not over three hundred and fifty white families in scattered communities west of the Cascades and north of the Columbia, as against five thousand Indians occupying the shores of Puget Sound at that time.

As an indirect result of these Indian hostilities of 1855-1856, both Fort Walla Walla and Fort Boise were temporarily abandoned. This created a vacuum, so to speak, into which more settlers were to pour, both as adventurers and home seekers. Ultimately, it was this balance of population which tipped the scales in favor of U.S. control of these territories.

### **U. S. Census, 8th for 1860**

The eighth United States Census, 1860, for Thurston County, Washington Territory, listed ten columns of vital statistics, namely: name, age, sex, occupation, value of real estate, value of personal estate, state of birth, marital status, whether or not in school and others over twenty. The following information appears for Thos. Berry, page 199, Thurston County, Washington Territory:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Occ.</i>	<i>Real Personal</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Marr.</i>	<i>Sch.</i>
Thomas F. Berry	40	M	Surveyer	\$1000	\$2400	Ohio	1
Martha J.	39	F				Kenty.	1
Lewis P.	17	M				Ind.	1
George T.	16	M				Ind.	1

Mary A.	14	F	Ind.	1
Louisa J.	11	F	Ind.	1
Heman S.	9	M	Ind.	1
Lucinda H.	7	F	Ind.	1
Ira W.	4	M	W.T.	
Levi L.	3	M	W.T.	
Marion S.	1	M	W.T.	

In the above-mentioned census, Thomas listed himself as a surveyor. Probably the first surveying which was done in Thurston County was the "viewing of roads," or making preliminary surveys along already established trails. Such trails led from Cowlitz Landing to Budd's Inlet on Puget Sound, from Grand Mound to Gray's Harbor, and later, from Steilacum north to Puyallup.

Governor Isaac Stevens, being himself a surveyor, developed a company of 243 men in various surveying parties. T. F. Berry was one of these men, doing considerable work in Lewis County.

James Tilton was Surveyor General at Olympia from 1853 to 1860, and A. G. Henry was Surveyor General from 1861 to 1866.

The only specific mention of Thomas Berry is the signature of the surveyor, given simply as "Berry." (For years there was in the family, an ivory scale transposing feet to tenths—or the meter system. This scale was lost in a fire in 1935, at Lind, Wash.)

There is no evidence that T. F. Berry was ever at Fort Vancouver, either on his first journey across the Columbia River, or later when working as a surveyor.

Although there is no knowledge of a meeting between Thomas Berry and Peter Skene Ogden, members of his family recall the fine reputation of Mr. Ogden's treatment of the settlers.

The license of the Hudson's Bay Company to trade with the Indians expired on May 30, 1859. The U. S. Government gave orders to extend the lines of survey across the holdings of the claims of the Hudson's Bay Company at that time. (Further information about this subject may be found in the book, "Fort Vancouver," by J. A. Hussey).

## Hon. T. F. Berry, Representative 1860

The events relating to Thomas F. Berry's serving as Representative in the eighth Legislative Assembly of Washington Territory have never been set down coherently.

In 1860, the Legislative Assembly met in a wooden structure on Second Street in downtown Olympia. When Mr. Berry, a Republican, arrived at the Territorial Capitol, he found that a Mr. Henness, from the opposite Whig party, claimed the seat to which Mr. Berry understood that he had been elected.

A committee under the chairmanship of Mr. C. C. Bozarth, received testimony from both men and after a careful investigation of all of the circumstances, made up a written report and presented it before the House of Representatives. The following is a direct quotation from that report: "Your committee (members) are of the opinion that Hon. T. F. Berry is entitled to the seat, and that Hon. B. L. Henness is not. All of which is respectfully submitted. C. C. Bozarth, Chairman."

The following day, Mr. Berry came forward and the oath of office was administered by J. W. Johnson, Notary Public. Thomas Berry served on the Ways and Means Committee, but his name was always printed on committee reports simply as "Berry".

Where T. F. Berry stood on various issues and questions discussed in the Legislative Assembly is not known. It appears that he went along with the majority. However, further research into Thurston County history may yet bring forth the exact positions which the Republican Representative took.

Other Republican Representatives in the 1860 Legislative Assembly were C. S. Ruddell, Gilmore Hays, C. H. Hale, F. W. Brown, T. F. Berry, and Henry Kendall.

The Legislature which met in 1860, was the first to take an interest in setting up county organizations east of the Cascade Mountains. The eastern boundary of Washington Territory was not clearly established,

and due to the short-sightedness on the part of the Legislators, northern Idaho was taken from Spokane County two years later.

## To Walla Walla County 1864

In 1864, Thomas F. Berry moved his large family from the Donation Claim on Mima Prairie, Thurston County, to Walla Walla County. This farm was located one-half mile west, and three and one-half miles south of the Whitman Mission site. At that time, the land was being farmed by Rev. Cushing Eels.

In the words of Mrs. Louisa J. Pierce, daughter of T. F. Berry, "No one had better friends than they (Cushing Eels) were to us."

In 1929, Marion S. Berry wrote to the President of Whitman College, Walla Walla, offering a book given to Mrs. Thomas F. Berry in 1867, by Rev. Cushing Eels. The book had been given to him (Cushing Eels) by Dr. Marcus Whitman, and was believed to be the only book possessed by Dr. Whitman. This book had been rescued after the massacre of 1847. The college issued a letter of appreciation to the Berry family for the gift of this historic book.

During their stay at this farm, tragedy struck suddenly. Heman S. Berry, a boy of fourteen, was starting to hitch up a team of horses when his arm became entangled in a halter and the team started to run. The mother looked out the window in time to see her son being thrown in the air and forceably slapped to the ground as the team ran away. Heman died on March 19, 1865.

One year later, typhoid fever was the cause of the death of Thomas F. Berry. He was forty-seven years old at the time of his passing. No other circumstances are known.

Thomas Berry was originally buried in a small cemetery located somewhere near the Whitman Mission; however, twenty years after his interment, his coffin was exhumed by his son Ira and some other men, and moved to the cemetery at Milton, Oregon.

## The Descendants of Thomas F. Berry

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Birth</i>	<i>Spouse</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>
Thomas F. Berry	Sept. 10, 1819	Martha J. Timberlake	Mar. 14, 1866
Martha J. Timberlake	Sept. 7, 1820	Thomas F. Berry	April 11, 1890
Frances Elizabeth	Dec. 18, 1840		Aug. 23, 1841
Louis Phillip	Nov. 23, 1842	Margaret M. Stowell	Sept. 25, 1896
George Thomas	July 17, 1844	Louisa J. Derric	May 4, 1911
Mary Almeda	May 5, 1846	Fred J. Morie	Jan. 23, 1918
Louisa Jane	Jan. 14, 1849	Nathan Pierce	Feb. 3, 1928
Heman Salathall	Jan. 9, 1851		Mar. 19, 1865
Lucinda Harriett	Aug. 23, 1852	John M. Hill	Aug. 9, 1907
Ira Ward	Oct. 20, 1855	Jennie L. Wright	Sept. 26, 1923
Levi Lee	Aug. 3, 1857	Frances E. Bartlett	April 7, 1916
Marion Sandusky	Feb. 15, 1859	Lucy R. Thomas	Nov. 5, 1930
Charles Eudoras	Jan. 3, 1861	Mary Jane Cole	June 15, 1935

## The Enigma of Character and Temperament

Apparently, no one personally acquainted with them had described in writing the characters and dispositions of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Berry. Perhaps they were all too busy wresting a living from the wilderness. Therefore, it is difficult to draw a satisfactory summary concerning their personal lives.

Martha J. Berry's physical build was markedly Dutch. She was phlegmatic and not easily upset. She was of a generous nature and whole-heartedly shared whatever she possessed.

Her husband, on the other hand, showed his Welch blood. His stature was wiry, his features swarthy, yet, his personality remains somewhat of an enigma.

There were four things in which Thomas F. Berry had strong beliefs, they were: the Republican Party, the Masonic Lodge, prohibition and the Methodist Church.

His last living daughter, Louisa Jane, once related the following incident, which might give some indication as to his temperament: "The younger children, while crossing the plains, kept singing 'Oh, Suzanna, Don't You Cry for Me', in endless repetition. The monotony of the thing got on their father's nerves, so he put a quietus on their youthful spirits by taking a small stick and scattering the children."

The considered judgment which best sums up the experiences of the generation of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Berry is this: "It was a way of hardship and danger which tested the pioneer stock of the West."



IRA W. BERRY AT SNOQUALAMIE PASS SEPT., 1919

*Section Two: The Descendants of***IRA WARD BERRY**

From this point on, the author wishes to confine himself to a biographical consideration of his own parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Ward Berry. The dates and places of their residences, the circumstances influencing their decisions, and their contrasting qualities of character are defined for a better understanding of their lives.

**“Doc” Baker’s Railroad**

During his early twenties, Ira Berry lived in Walla Walla, and worked for “Doc” Baker on his famous railroad, “The Walla Walla and Columbia R.R.” When asked what his duties were, Ira replied, “I did everything from walking the tracks to acting as yard master.” He also told of the time he took a 2x2 stick to use as leverage on the hand brakes and climbed on top of a loaded freight car from where he released the brakes and let the freight car roll downhill all the way to College Place without benefit of a switch engine. He walked back.

**Marriage to Jennie Laura Wright**

The marriage certificate bound in the family Bible has in it a notation in the handwriting of Jennie L. Berry which reads: “Ira Ward Berry of Milton, Oregon, and Jennie Laura Wright were united in Holy Matrimony at her parents’ home, in Milton, on the sixteenth day of October, 1883, in the presence of 50 friends and relatives. Rev. William Pruett, Minister. George Young and Nathan Pierce, witnesses.”

(In 1956, at the age of 89, Jennie L. Berry was able to name almost forty of those who were present that night. But the one thing which she remembered best was the roast turkey and the dining room table stacked high with large quantities of home-made food.)

## The Wright Family Journeyed by Covered Wagon

Jennie Laura Wright, with her family, crossed the country from Carthage, Missouri, to Weston, Oregon, in a covered wagon during 1879. This journey was recorded in a journal kept by Jennie's mother, and which is now in the University of Washington Library, listed under Northwest Americana. (The original map which supplemented the Wright Journal is now in the possession of the author's son, Lawrence, who lives in Phoenix, Arizona.)

### The Journal of William T. Wright

In telling about their journey West, Mrs. Wright relates some of the hardships faced by the pioneers.

On one occasion, Mr. Wright and a companion were caught out in a blizzard. Since he felt his companion needed a coat worse than he did, he gave the other man his coat. Mrs. Wright then tied a piece of carpet over her husband's head and shoulders so that hail stones would not bruise him.

When occasion demanded, while crossing the plains, the pioneers accomplished prodigious feats of endurance. Very few of them, however, looked upon themselves as heroes. They met emergencies without complaint or later regret.

These men, with determination and will-power, went about their duties not realizing that people in succeeding generations would attribute to them, virtues of courage and fortitude. Blind to their own greatness, they simply went ahead and did what was expected, without self-adulation or self-glory.

NOTE: A study of the Wright-Lattin branches of the family is planned as a supplement to this study. Further information on the Lattin genealogy can be obtained from Eugene David Kelly, c/o The Kelly Agency, Leavenworth, Kansas.

### Life in Milton, Oregon — 1883

Some interesting sidelights on what life was like in

Milton, Oregon, in 1883, are seen in some excerpts taken from a letter from Congressman Walter M. Pierce. In this letter, dated July 24, 1941, the former Governor of Oregon and senior Congressman, wrote: "... When I went to Milton, it was a little village with three saloons, two blacksmith shops, and two stores. It had two regular preachers and two teachers."

"In September of '83, I commenced teaching school at Milton. I lived with your grandmother (Martha J. Berry). She was a widow lady, not keeping boarders, but she took me in as an accommodation. In the home were Charles and Lee Berry."

Congressman Pierce then made this unsolicited observation: "Your grandmother was a deeply religious woman, one of those fine pioneer women, and your uncles were the best of men."

## Four Children Born in Milton

At the time of their marriage, there was eleven years' difference between the ages of Ira W. Berry and his youthful wife, Jennie. He was 28, lacking four days, and she was 17.

Jennie L. Berry had passed her nineteenth birthday by one month when her first child was born on Christmas morning, 1885. This child was named for his paternal and maternal grandfathers, Thomas William Berry. This baby's temperament grew to be affable, gracious and subdued. A capable man both in his work and as a leader, Thomas Berry had many natural abilities untried in the communities where he lived. Given the opportunity to develop these abilities, Thomas Berry would have been an honored man.

The second child, Harry Wright Berry, was born January 4, 1888. He inherited some of the fire and aggressiveness of the Wright ancestors. Along with his independent quality, Harry Berry possessed a brilliant memory. In his early twenties, he memorized all of Sir Walter Scott's "Lady of the Lake", and would repeat it verbatim whenever invited to do so. (This

son devoted the last ten years of his life towards waiting upon his mother.)

On Sunday morning, November 9, 1902, Jennie Berry gave birth to a set of twins. The girl was named Laura for Laura Lattin, a name which goes back four generations. She became very popular not only with her father and brothers, but was probably the most sociable of all the Berrys. The boy was named Lawrence, to match the twin name, Laura. However, he was known by several nicknames, including "Dick", so it could be said of the I. W. Berrys that they raised "Tom, Dick and Harry."

As was his nature towards his family, Ira Berry was indulgent toward the twins, perhaps too much so. Although he is remembered as a temperate father, there were at least two instances when Ira Berry resorted to a switch. Once, when he caught his son Lawrence swinging on the large front gate, after being told not to, and another switching took place when Lawrence was observed sticking a pitchfork in the hind end of a bull. Loud cries by the boy, pleading self-defense from the bull, did not alter the punishment. (On retrospect, there were other times when a hard application of the paternal right hand would have been in order.)

## Hill's Camp in the Blue Mountains

During the two decades of life in Oregon, the Berrys spent considerable time at a place called Hill's Camp, in the Blue Mountains.

Gratuitous permission was granted by John M. Hill, brother-in-law of I. W. Berry, to build a log cabin on his land. Hill's Camp became widely known as a center for social gatherings. (Evenings spent around the bonfire watching the sunset and lively repartee as to whether or not there was a bear in the neighborhood.)

Three different sources recall the Sunday night "mush" at Hill's Camp. Jasper Olinger, of Milton, related the story this way: "Ira Berry would invite various nephews of his and their friends over for Sunday night supper. The favorite dish would be corn

meal mush with fresh whole milk, and man, was it good!" The details as to what the mush consisted of vary, but it was agreed that Ira Berry was the best cook . . . for a man, on whom they could brag.

One of these nephews, Elmer P. Berry, son of Lee Berry, explained the reasons why the Berrys spent so much time and did so much work up at Hill's Camp. There was a yearly need to cut firewood for a winter's supply, and a constant need for fence posts, besides a desire to supplement the annual income from the farm in the Walla Walla River valley, by working at the sawmills.

## The Extensive Search for a Larger Farm

Although Jennie Berry was proud of her twenty-acre strawberry patch, which netted her two thousand dollars in two successive years, Ira Berry was looking for a larger farm.

Ira spent nearly four years in his quest before he found the ideal property. During this time he made notations on various contacts with land agents, and subsequent trips he made to investigate properties.

From these notations it was learned he was in Connell, Washington, on January 3, 1903, where he talked to Mr. B. S. Wadsworth. On this trip he mentions hiring a rig from the livery stable and driving to Kalotus, Washington.

According to Jennie Berry, a Mr. Childers had once farmed near that town and was the man who originally suggested that Adams County would be a good place in which to look further.

The first mention of Lind, Washington, is in the following notation made by Ira Berry: "1/2 sec. ten miles from Lind, sec. 21, 18th range with 206 acres winter wheat, 77 acres spring wheat, good barn; 16 horses. Price '\$12.50 per acre.'" The name given was C. W. Krebill.

Ira Berry's attention was also called to the McLoughlin farm, located six miles southeast of Lind. This farm was listed for sale with a Mr. Day Imus

and was the quarter-section of land where the buildings are located on the original Bert Rous homestead. Needless to say there were seven homestead residences on this farm when Ira Berry took it over on March 1, 1906.

The financing of the purchase price and the carrying of the first mortgage was arranged through the McMasters' Lumber interests of Portland, Oregon. Government financing to the farmers did not exist at that time.

## The Seven Lean Years

The years from 1906 through 1913 were the seven lean years at Lind. In 1906, Ira Berry lost fourteen of his best horses from an ailment known as compaction. In 1907, there was a bank crisis, seriously influencing farm crop prices. In 1908, there were new payments to be met on a combine harvester. And so it went. In 1913, an electric storm in June literally cooked the wheat in its critical state of growth. The average yield that year was between two and three bushels per acre.

Throughout all of these hardships, Ira Berry remained steadfast. Even through sickness in his family, but when a telegram arrived from a Portland hospital stating an operation on Jennie Berry was successful, the harrassed husband sat down in a rocking chair by the phone, held his head in his hands and shed copious tears.

## The Happy Year — 1919

The Berrys spent the winter months in Seattle from 1912 to 1921, and lest the preceeding years of struggle appear to be all drab, the year of 1919 had been selected, out of many, to reflect a period of color and the coming of modest affluence.

It was with the eagerness of a youth just discharged from the military service, that Ira Berry planned his years of retirement.

On one occasion, he is remembered taking vast enjoyment in the selection of a tent and some camping

2. bered bringing up the rear carrying a red flag. Ira Berry took great delight in these outings, and the magnificent taste of steaming huckleberries with fluffy dumplings eaten around a campfire.

### Ezra Meeker

Ezra Meeker arrived in Seattle after a covered wagon trip over the Oregon Trail, and was met by Ira Berry on Second Avenue in front of the old Bon Marche Building.

In describing his trip, Mr. Meeker remarked, "Graveled roads were hard on the oxen's feet and the thrill of the old pioneer days was gone."

Ezra Meeker's words epitomized the end of the pioneer era.

### "Dying With His Boots On"

The health of Ira Berry began to decline gradually around the age of sixty-four. This may not have been too obvious to the casual observer, but a little knowledge of the history of hardening of the arteries in the Berry family will prove it an accurate conclusion.

Investigation from similar medical histories shows equipment.

Two of the happiest days of the summer of 1919 were the family reunion held at the I. W. Berry home in University District, Seattle, and a trip to Paradise Valley on Mount Rainier, in order to pick huckleberries.

A group picture taken by Mr. E. P. Berry, of the Berry reunion in 1919, shows three of the first generation born in Washington Territory, and fifty other nephews, nieces and cousins. Prominent among this group was Mr. Dorsey Hill, future mayor of Walla Walla, and Mr. Nate Buck, future mayor of Yakima.

In 1919, the road above Nisqually River in Rainier National Park was restricted to one-way traffic; however, after negotiating the steep grade, the camping facilities were ideal. On this trek, Ira Berry is remem-

3  
that not infrequently the sufferer from hardening of the arteries has infinitesimally small lesions in the blood vessels before the final hemorrhage strikes the victim down.

Ira Berry would not admit to anyone his weakening condition. One day during 1920, when loading hay, Ira stuck his pitchfork in the ground, leaned up against it and appeared "done in."

When he was asked how he felt, Ira replied, "Oh, I'm alright."

I. W. Berry had always said, half seriously, that he wanted to die "with his boots on." This very nearly came true.

As far as is known, Ira Berry began the morning of September 26, 1923, as a normal day. He went about his morning chores like any other morning until his first complaint at about 9:45 A.M. It was his intention that morning to take an apple box of cooked food to the crew of hired men working in the field, starting at 10:30 A.M. However, before that hour he broke out in a cold sweat, whereupon he undressed and went to bed.

There were the characteristic symptoms of severe vomiting and increased pulse, plus the recognition on his part that something was wrong.

Dr. Clarence Henderson was called from Lind, arriving just before noon. The usual banter between patient and doctor took place, including the remark by Ira, "The old lady is getting excited." During the doctor's examination the patient's eyes dilated and the light began to fade from them.

As the meridian sun passed the zenith of Heaven, that memorable Fall day, the eyes of Ira Ward Berry closed in earthly sleep.

The editor of *The Lind Leader* said all that could be said when he wrote, "Divine Providence, in its infinite wisdom, had taken from the Berry home its husband and father."

## The Stature of Ira W. Berry

It is sincerely believed that by his own right, and in his own generation, Ira W. Berry was just as great a man as was his father. To better understand what this judgment may include, four characteristics will be elaborated upon, namely: popularity, sense of humor, interest in good causes, and practice of religion.

Ira Berry was a popular man. He was well liked by his relatives and by those who worked close to him. The good name he created for himself can only be explained by his fair dealing within the family, by the fairness with which he treated his hired help, and his lovable manner as a companion and friend. He was easily approachable, his smile contagious and his temperament considerate of others.

The greatest compliment heard of Ira Berry was an unsolicited remark made by Mr. Albert W. Hogue, of the University Branch of Pacific National Bank, in the presence of Mr. E. P. Brevig. "In my opinion," spoke Mr. Hogue, "I. W. Berry was one of the greatest men for strength of character among all the men I have ever known." This is a great tribute to a humble, quiet farmer.

As is so often true of people of genuine worth, I. W. Berry's full stature was not fully appreciated while he was living.

Ira Berry was a humorous man. He enjoyed a man's point of view, salted with fun. Most of the time his pranks were innocent, others were in the nature of practical jokes.

One of his practical jokes took place when he was riding horseback in the Blue Mountains with his young wife. Jennie's horse, "Old Nick," was just ahead of his horse, so Ira reached forward and stuck a cold hammer under Old Nick's tail. It stayed there . . . for awhile. Then down went the horse's tail and up went his heels. Each time the hammer slipped a bit, Old Nick went off on another kicking tantrum. When the fun was over, Jennie "politely suggested"

to her husband that he not try that trick again. He never did.

Ira Berry loved to sing out-of-doors. Two of his stand-bys were, "O My Darling Nellie Gray" and "The Little Old Sod Cabin on the Plain." Members of the family could hear him exercising his vocal cords approximately one-half mile away, and when he sneezed at the top of his voice, he could be heard down to the neighbors, one mile away.

A third indication of I. W. Berry's stature is seen in the many good causes he helped pioneer. To enumerate: he carried a petition to seventy-five farmers' homes to get signatures on a petition to start the first R.F.D. in Adams County; he materially assisted the Union Elevator and Warehouse Company when Mr. Urquhart was struggling to make the new enterprise succeed; he gave the land for School District No. 88, in Adams County, and was the first clerk of the School Board. In addition, Ira Berry served twelve years as Judge of the Election Board, sitting up all night if the occasion necessitated, to deliver the sealed ballot box safely to the morning express train. And he was "Class Leader" for nearly twenty years, in the Methodist Church at Milton, Oregon.

In short, Ira W. Berry was a person to whom people could look for help in finding a solution for their difficulties.

I. W. Berry practiced his religion, in that, he never judged a wrong-doer, he was thankful for all material things, and was generous toward others in thought and deed. He felt an abiding loyalty to the church and its missionaries.

In 1953, two of Ira's sons were discussing their father's forgiving nature, when Harry confessed to Lawrence that he regretted the things he had said to his father, when he (Ira Berry) tried to remonstrate with him. Harry stated he had never created the opportunity to tell his father that he was sorry for the harsh words; however, Ira Berry did not judge his second son on this or any other occasion. He was long suffering toward the wrong-doer.

There was a reverence and gratitude in this old-

fashioned home. Grace was always said before meals, even when Mr. Berry was a guest in other people's homes; the host and hostess knew of his practice of thanking God for his food.

When asked why he would never change his membership from the Methodist Church, even when pressure was exerted upon him to do so, Ira Berry stated, "My mother made me promise to be always loyal to the Methodist Church and I always shall be." Church loyalty was for Ira Berry an inbred emotional matter.

The one quality which shows I. W. Berry was a God-fearing man was his generosity with his time and financial means for the Church, yet he seldom talked about religion. He had a ready willingness to help the minister whenever and wherever he could. He had a restrained respect toward the fundamentals of morality and responsible conduct with the result that in many instances, Ira Berry's influence was more effective than sermons or other preachments.

It was in the I. W. Berry home in University District, Seattle, that the family of Dr. A. L. Shelton lived for a few weeks in 1920. Dr. Albert Shelton was the first Christian Missionary ever to enter Lhasa, the Capitol of Tibet. He was a forerunner to Dr. Albert Schweitzer and became world-famous at the time of his martyrdom in 1922, in Tibet. To further this good work, Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Berry gave most of their inheritance money. The gift certificate making this possible was given in the name of Laura Berry.

# THE DESCENDANTS OF IRA W. BERRY

Name	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Date of Death
Jennie Laura Berry (wife)	Nov. 6, 1866	Warren, Ohio	May 13, 1957
Thomas William Berry	Dec. 25, 1885	Milton, Oregon	Aug. 15, 1949
Clara G. Wilkins (wife)	Nov. 17, 1888	Butler, Penn.	
Marguerite F.	Feb. 28, 1918	Seattle, Wash.	
William W.	Dec. 22, 1922	Seattle, Wash.	
Thomas Wallace	Dec. 26, 1925	Spokane, Wash.	
Harry Wright Berry	Jan. 4, 1888	Milton, Ore.	July 2, 1955
Myrtle Ivy Watt (wife)	Nov. 8, 1892	Idaho	
Ivan W.	June 18, 1918	Ritzville, Wash.	
Irene M.	July 17, 1920	Lind, Wash.	
Lawrence W. Berry	Nov. 9, 1902	Milton, Ore.	
Adele R. Gulzow (wife)	Aug. 19, 1904	Flandreau, S.D.	
Lawrence W.	Mar. 17, 1929	Sayebrook, Conn.	
John R.	Aug. 6, 1930	New London, Conn.	
Mona Marie	June 13, 1932	Atwood, Kan.	
Leslie A. Branson (husband)	Sept. 14, 1900	Victor, Mont.	
Laura Berry Branson	Nov. 9, 1902	Milton, Ore.	
Kendall B.	May 20, 1925	Spokane, Wash.	May 20, 1927
Adele M.	June 24, 1927	Spokane, Wash.	
Jennell E.	Dec. 17, 1929	Spokane, Wash.	
Jerry C.	April 12, 1931	Spokane, Wash.	
Orville H.	Nov. 24, 1934	Spokane, Wash.	
Ira D.	May 1, 1937	Spokane, Wash.	

## The Heritage They Have Bequeathed Us

The way of life which our pioneer forefathers lived was largely forced upon them by their environment. Because they had emigrated across the plains, they had to save the wood ashes in order to get lye to make soap, they rendered tallow to secure a base for their candles, and they carded their own wool to make the clothes for their homespun. Ira Berry, for instance, had never worn a suit of boughten underwear before he was seventeen years old. His sisters knitted his sox.

Such resourcefulness produced a quality of character readily recognized by those who reflect upon their forebearers' deeds. Theirs was a way of patient acceptance, of gratitude to the Almighty, and of sincere dealings with friend and neighbor. Not once was

there a single word of complaint or remonstrance for the decision to move to the primitive Northwest.

Attention is called to "The Berry Lectures of the University of Hawaii," set up as a trust fund in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Ward Berry.

## UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII FOUNDATION

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, HONOLULU 14, HAWAII

Excerpt from minutes of meeting of Board of Trustees of University of Hawaii Foundation held January 17, 1957:

"It was duly moved, seconded, and voted to accept a contribution of \$1,044.00 from the family of the Rev. Lawrence W. Berry, of Seattle, Washington, in order to set up a trust fund in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Berry, the income of this fund to be used to offer lectures on the principles and meaning of Christianity, to be known as "The Berry Lectures of the University of Hawaii," comparable in purpose and scope to the Terry Lectures at Yale University. It was pointed out that the wishes of the donors are that 'sectarianism, bigotry and extreme fanaticism are never associated with this undertaking,' and, further, that the amount of \$1,044.00 represents the first of other contributions which they intend to make 'over a period of years.' "

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of that portion of the minutes relating to the Berry Lectures.

RICHARD PENHALLOW, *Secretary*,  
University of Hawaii Foundation

Of this we can be sure: Our deeds and our degree of faith will have to go a long way to match the heritage bequeathed us.

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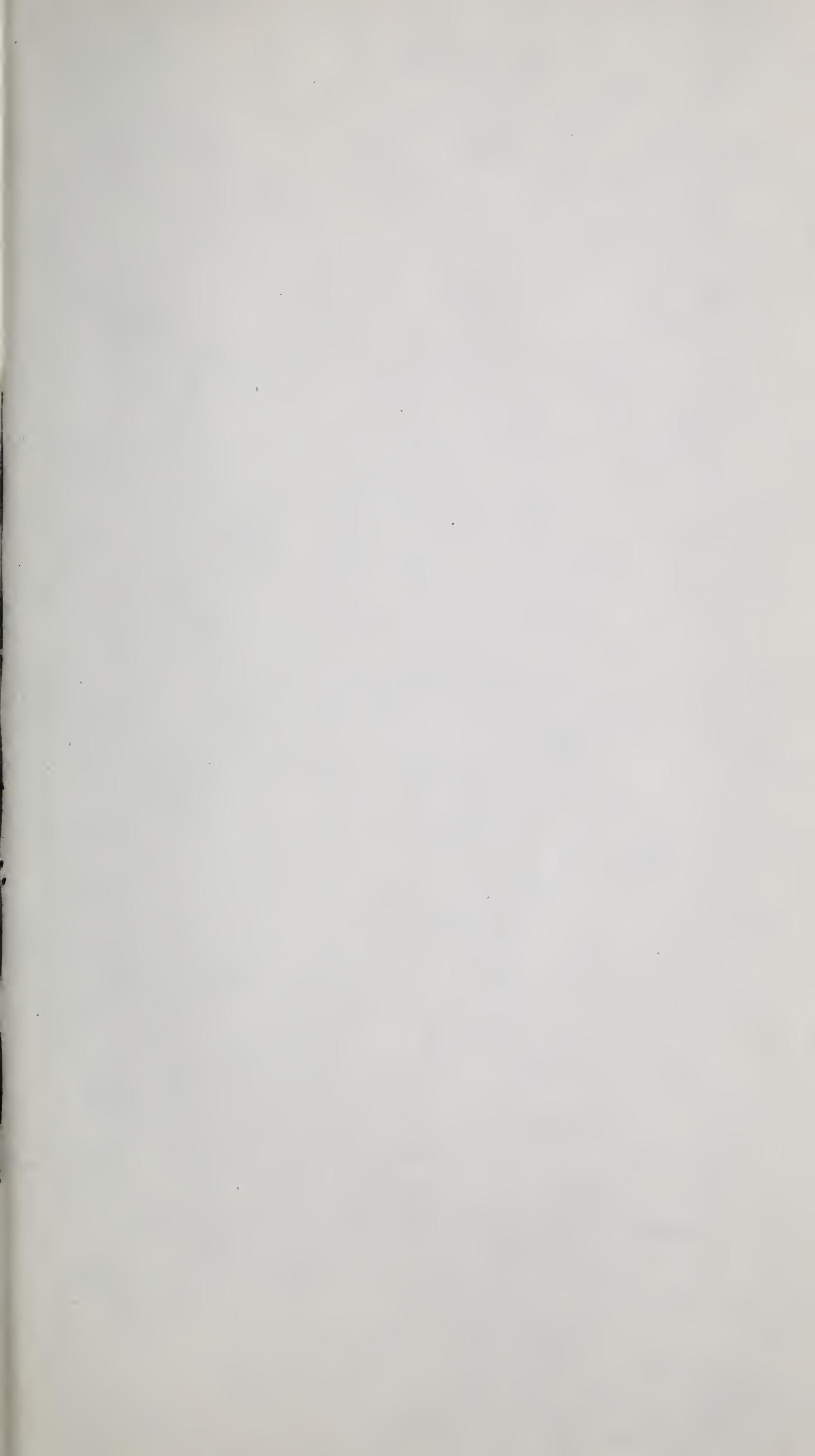
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